

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XVI

May 13, 2007

No. 19

## The Love Behind Eternal Life

Larry Baulch

**F**ohn 3:16... *“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

One of the most poignant and memorable verses in the New Testament is John 3:16. This verse uncovers to all who read it the very foundation for our religious well being. It tells the story of what lies behind our hope for eternal life, and the character of our relationship with our Lord. This twenty-four word sentence gives us, as Christians, the knowledge and hope that by following the biblical obligations and precepts taught in the New Testament we will find our place and home in heaven with the Lord at the end of time. So, let us consider the New Testament verse, John 3:16. God’s great love lies at the very root of our lively hope for eternal life.

We discover in Romans 5:8; *God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* This is great love! While we were refusing to follow God or even acknowledge His rightful place in our lives, God sent His Son to die

for us. Looking over our helpless condition of being dead in sin, He manifested great love and remarkable power in making us alive in Christ. Paul unites God’s love and power in our salvation: *“...because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy made us alive with Christ” (Eph. 2:4).* Then yet again in Revelation 1:5 we find; *“...and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”* These passages assist in solidifying our knowledge and assurance that God truly loved the world, even though it stood in enmity with Him. He loved His creation. He loved us when we did not love Him.

1 John 4:9 reminds us that true love is manifested in action: *“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him”.* God gave for our redemption a most valuable gift. He gave his only begotten Son. Our God gave for our eternal benefit the only treasure, the only mediator that would allow us to be cleansed from sin so we could join our God in

heaven at the end of time. In Romans 8:32 we read, *“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”* Knowing God gave His only Son for us, we are assured that God will give us anything that will help us conquer the difficulties of life.

In the following verse we discover how critical it is for us to believe on Jesus Christ: In John 3:18 it is written; *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.* The difference in being condemned or not being condemned by God lies in our choice to not believe in God’s Son or escape condemnation by submitting in faith to his authority.

John 3:16 reminds us that love was behind God offering His only begotten Son. He loved the world so much and did not want man to perish that he gave the only gift that could appease God’s righteous wrath towards Sin. Eternal life is now available. But it is only available to those who will respond with obedient faith.